

## The Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux

*“When I am charitable, it is Jesus alone who acts in me.”*

“It is not the greatness of our actions that matters, but the love with which we do them.”

*(Extract from a Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St Thérèse)*



The annual Little Way Novena in honour of St Thérèse of Lisieux will be take place at St Eugene’s Cathedral from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May until Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025. This will be an opportunity to pray for a special intention and to ask St Thérèse to intercede for us. It is a time when many people find great joy and healing. All are very welcome.

**The Novena begins with a Mass with the Anointing of the sick at 7.30pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

**The Opening Ceremony will take place at 6.00pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May with Bishop Donal McKeown.**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May there will be Novena Masses at 6.30am and 10.00am each morning and an evening service with a guest speaker at 7.30pm.**

The speakers each evening at 7.30pm are as follows:

**Monday (12<sup>th</sup>): Colin Bell**, father of Kevin Bell and founder of the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.

**Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>) Archdeacon Robert Miller**, our neighbour and friend who loves speaking at the Novena!

**Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup>) Sile Quinlan** spokeswoman for LoveBoth, an organisation which promotes the protection of mother and baby in pregnancy.

**Thursday (15<sup>th</sup>) Sr Rosa Goretti**, from the Sisters for Life founded by Cardinal John O Connor in New York in 1991.

**Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) Fr John Joe Duffy** a Priest from the Parish of Creeslough, County Donegal.

**Saturday (17<sup>th</sup>)** the 10.00am Mass will be celebrated for all those who have died.

**The Novena Closing Ceremony will take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm with the blessing of roses and candles.**

**St Thérèse candles and Mass Bouquets will be on sale at the back of the Cathedral.**

**At the statue of St Therese there is a petition box to place your petitions for this Novena.**

## A short reflection on today’s Gospel John 21:1-19

Today’s Gospel, which describes the disciples’ third encounter with the risen Jesus, is a beautiful, moving and tender testament to divine love: through his generosity, kindness and forgiveness, Jesus frees his beloved disciples from their confusion and doubt into embracing the change of direction their lives must now take. In their fear and uncertainty, they have returned to Galilee and to the life they knew before they’d met and followed Jesus. But Jesus wants these fishermen to become fishers of souls. The risen Jesus’ third encounter with his disciples is to show them the impossibility of returning to the past.

Today’s Gospel also grants us an insight into the anguished mind of Simon Peter. He has betrayed his beloved master three times, and that betrayal is torturing him. But he has reckoned without the full extent of Jesus’ love and understanding. Jesus knows Peter’s passionate, loving heart, and he understands the human fear which held him back from doing the courageous thing. He now offers that knowledge and understanding to Peter as a gift. He asks Peter if he loves him three times, the same number of times Peter had denied him. Of course he knows that Peter loves him, and he now soothes his friend’s anguished heart by entrusting him with the task of saving his people: of feeding his lambs and his sheep. Jesus, may we be kind, generous and forgiving towards others as you have taught us to be.

**Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood:** Jesus invites His disciples to listen to His advice and to spend time in His company. We pray that the men considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood will be inspired and encouraged through their prayer, meditation, and reading of the Scriptures.

**First Holy Communion** – Congratulations to the boys and girls from Rosemount Primary School who celebrated their First Holy Communion here at St Eugene’s Cathedral during the week. May this special day be their first step in a life-long love of the Eucharist.

**The monthly Matt Talbot, Freedom from addiction Mass takes place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm in St Eugene's Cathedral.** To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please email [vita@mattalbotprayersociety.com](mailto:vita@mattalbotprayersociety.com) or phone St Eugene’s Cathedral at 028 71262894.

**St Eugene’s Cathedral Pilgrimage to Knock – 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June as part of the Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage.** Cost £280 per person sharing. For more information and full itinerary contact Anne Marie Hickey, Pastoral Coordinator on [amhickey@derrydiocese.org](mailto:amhickey@derrydiocese.org), phone the Parish Office on 028 71262894 or call into the Parish Office.

**St Eugene’s Cathedral Parish Draw – only 200 tickets available!** 10 monthly draws at £20 per draw beginning May 2025. Entry fee for all draws can be paid in full or monthly. Entries paid in full will be entered into a draw for £500. Prizes per month £1,000, £500 and 5 x £100. The draw will raise funds for necessary repair, maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful Cathedral. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 02871 262894 or email [cathedral@derrydiocese.org](mailto:cathedral@derrydiocese.org).

**Diocese of Derry Three-Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg 2025: starts on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July and concludes on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July.** For those wishing to avail of transport, a bus will depart after 10:00am Mass in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on the Friday; it will travel via Lifford and Ballybofey. Cost: £95/€110 (including transport). Pre-booking is required. Please contact Tony Brennan on [tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tony.brennan@derrydiocese.org) or phone the Diocese Office on 0044 28 7126 2302 for a booking form.

**Sympathy**

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

***Pat Doherty  
Celine Carlin  
Claire Curran  
Rosaleen Wilson***

May they rest in peace

**Thank you**

Fr Farren acknowledges with thanks the following donations for:

**Trócaire:** £200, £160, £240, £100  
**Smile Train:** £200  
**Sightsavers:** £200  
**Mary's Meals:** £1,000, £30  
**Cathedral Funds:** £200

**Anniversaries**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

***Ann McCrea  
Nellie Harkin  
Rose Griffin  
Robert McAnaney***

May they rest in peace

**Collection**

Last week's collection: £5,577  
Parish Development: £1,116

***Thank you for your generosity***

**Readers for 10<sup>th</sup> /11<sup>th</sup> May**

06.15 pm Claire O'Kane  
07.30 pm Liz McMonagle  
09.30 am Kay McGinn  
11.00 am St Mary's College  
12.30 pm Ursula Doherty  
07.00 pm Marian Boyle

**Baptisms**

We welcome as a member of God's family:

***Órla Maria Campbell  
Aria Saoirse Burke***

**Sacrament of Marriage**

We congratulate ***Broaghan Anderson and Callum Coogan*** who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage recently in the Cathedral

**Sick Visitation**

Fr Shaun Doherty will attend the sick and housebound in his care on Tuesday and Friday.

**Priests: Fr Paul Farren, Fr Shaun Doherty**

**St Eugene's Cathedral** is monitored by CCTV cameras and by two live streaming cameras. Live streaming can be viewed online at [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv), [www.watchmcnmedia](http://www.watchmcnmedia) or the parish website. The Diocese of Derry Privacy Notice is displayed on the parish website and Cathedral notice board, or you may obtain a copy from the Parish Office.

**Safeguarding Notice:** If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of children or adults in need of protection within the Church please contact Marie Gormley, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) at 07596500793 or at [mariegormley@derrydiocese.org](mailto:mariegormley@derrydiocese.org) or contact the Safeguarding Office, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ or PSNI (Police Service of **Northern Ireland**) **101** or **Social Services: Gateway Services, Western HSC Trust, 71314090** and ask for the **Duty Social Worker**.